TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

Appomattox, Virginia

ESTABLISHED 1892

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Robinson ...... *Editors and Publishers*

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"Wherefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." —II Cor. 5:17.

BUILDING BOOM CONTINUES

The Commerce Department says the building boom in 1955 will reach an all-time record of $41,800,000,000. This is an even higher figure than was anticipated in 1954, when a record year for 1955 was predicted.

Total building is even greater than had been estimated. New records are being set in almost every line of building —homes, schools, churches, stores, service stations, roads, and so on.

The current building boom, which shows no signs of abating, coupled with peak automobile sales, insures a fast-moving economy for the rest of 1955. As of June 30th—the half-way mark in 1955— the automobile companies, it was recently revealed, had built 4,500,000 automobiles.

In this connection, however, it is only accurate to point out that new models will probably come out this year in October and the first six months of 1955 represent far more than half of the production year in most of the automobile companies. Thus, total production will not be anything like nine million units, although the five and a half million-unit estimate will probably be exceeded.

It seems apparent that as long as the building boom continues and automobile sales continue as the present pace, or near it, the economy of the United States will not go into any slump. The outlook is brightened also by the fact that pay raises have recently been granted in several major industries which will be translated into greater buying power, and a stimulated demand for hard goods.

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FINANCING IKE'S HIGHWAY PROGRAM

Representative George H. Fallon, Maryland Democrat, has come up with a good method for financing the new Federal highway program. Instead of the Government making huge new loans and going into debt, on which considerable interest would have to be paid, Representative Fallon has proposed that Federal tax on gasoline be increased one cent.

As much as we are opposed to increasing the gasoline tax which is already high, we consider this increase necessary in view of the urgent need for expanded, and better highway systems in all of the states.

President Eisenhower's highway program looked toward an expenditure of $100,000,000,000 in coming years, although only a fraction of this would be used per year. The proposal to raise the gasoline tax one cent and to earmark this money — which would amount to about $12,500,000,000 a year—to highways, is apparently the answer to the problem.

Moreover, it is doubtful if more than $12,500,000,000 should be spent in the first few years of the program. This would provide sufficient amount of revenue—even gauged by the standards of the Eisenhower program—to undertake a tremendous road-building effort.

It is more than obvious that the country badly needs new and better highways since the highway death rate is increasing and since the number of cars and trucks using these highways is sharply on the upgrade.

Even though Secretary Humphrey said he believed the President's program was the best, he said he would not quarrel about the program initiated in the House by Fallon. This is tantamount to saying the Administration would accept the Fallon proposal and undertake a vast highway-building in good faith, under the financing program of the Democrats.

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When you have something to sell, the columns of this newspaper are your best bet to sell it.

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Your church is still open every Sunday, in case you hadn't noticed.

PROTECTING RESPONSIBLE MOTORISTS

Despite the number of different laws, in the various states, that require motorists to carry insurance or providing stiff penalties against those who do not, in most of the states in the Union, irresponsible motorists are still causing heavy human and physical damage, without having to compensate for their acts.

Since most motorists drive through a number of states over a period of time, the problem is almost a national one. Although the effort to require motorists to carry insurance is supported by a large and growing number of people, the various states have not yet come up with this solution and, therefore, the highways are filled with irresponsible drivers, who do not have the financial means to compensate for the destruction they may at any time cause.

This is a problem which should be solved because it can be solved. If the various state legislatures do not wish to pass laws requiring motorists to carry insurance, then they should pass some sort of law which would protect the victim of the irresponsible motorists. There is no reason why any citizen should be allowed to take the highway with a machine which might cause both death and destruction, in irresponsible hands, when he has neither the means nor the insurance to compensate for destruction which he might cause.

This problem is not akin to the problem of normal crimes. Crimes cannot be predicted, nor are citizens given wholesale permits to carry guns and permission to shoot them at will.

However, the motorist is given a license to operate a vehicle which can cause death and if society is going to permit citizens to obtain these permits rather freely, it has the responsibility to protect those who fall victim to its misuse.

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DOLLAR-A-YEAR MEN

The current practice of the government utilizing dollar-a-year men in high administration posts is being abused to such an extent that it is questionable whether any dollar-a-year men should be permitted to accept top government jobs.

Recently the Commerce Department released a list of dollar-a-year men serving the government and some of them handle jobs involving decisions which affected the former business (and future business) of the official—and its competitors.

The situation is thoroughly confused. Officers of Cabinet rank were forced to sell large holdings in big corporations. Charles Wilson sold a couple of million dollars worth of motor stock.

Yet officials below Cabinet rank are getting by with what the topmost officials were barred from doing. One criterion should be enforced for all.

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It is a good thing that most of us never know that other people think of us.

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The world looks black to the person who thinks nobody knows as much as he does.

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Remember that some newspapers which print all the "news" go out of business because of libel suits.

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It is funny how people think you are interested in their troubles. Almost anyone can tell you how to live your own life.

* * * * * *

President Eisenhower is now giving a demonstration in the art of not spending all the money voted by Congress. President Truman once did the same.

WASHINGTON NOTES

MILITARY POWER CUTS

In one of his first speeches after assuming the post of Army Chief of Staff, General Maxwell D. Taylor declared that military manpower cuts will require the reduction of United States ground forces in the Far East. The First Cavalry Division will be one of the units due to return soon from Japan, without replacement, it is said.

THE A. E. C.

President Eisenhower signed with "great reluctance" a bill giving the Atomic Energy Commission $1,380,847,000. He warned that the cut of $140,404,000 from the measure would jeopardize work on atomic weapons and peaceful uses of atomic energy.

U. S. INCOME

For the first time in the history of the country, estimated annual income figures not only had reached but also had topped $300,000,000,000, according to the Office of Business Economics of the U. S. Department of Commerce. The May figures, recently released, were $2,000,000,000 ahead of the annual rate for April, the former record month, and $14,000,000,000 higher than those for May, 1954.

COPPER

Dwindling stocks of copper, as a result of strikes and increasing civilian consumption, may force the Office of Defense Mobilization to revive emergency powers to establish priorities.

APPLIANCE PRICES

Recent price increases in steel and other raw materials probably will result in higher retail prices for appliances, especially refrigerators and air-conditioners, in the opinion of James H. Carmine, president of Philco Corporation. He believes that as soon as the materials and components bought at today's prices are fabricated, their higher costs inevitably will be reflected in higher prices to the consumer.

PERSONAL INCOME

The Department of Commerce re[ports that, for the first five mo]nths of 1955, total personal income [in] the United States was at an [annual] rate of $296,000,000,000, a gain [of] $10,000,000,000 over the [corres]ponding period of 1954.

TAX PROSECUTIONS

The Government is attempting [to] collect more than $390,000,000 [in] interest at the rate of $46,000 [from] some 5,420 delinquent taxpayers [...] the Justice Department is also [...] ing criminal cases against 789 [per]sons who tried to cheat on their [in]come taxes. A total of 389 [crimi]nal cases were closed with con[vic]tions in the first half of this [year]. There were 6,200 cases pending [as] of July 1—5,420 civil and 780 [crim]inal.

MILITARY BASES

President Eisenhower has si[gned] a bill authorizing a $2,360,50[0,000] construction program at U[nited] States military bases around [the] world. Many of the projects are [se]cret. Of the total, the Air F[orce] will receive $1,300,000,000 and [the] Army and Navy $500,000,000 e[ach].

TRAVEL BOOM

So many Americans are trav[eling] abroad this year that the pass[port] office of the State Department is [be]ing overworked. The Department [has] issued or had renewed 480,000 pa[ss]ports in the fiscal year that [ended] June 30—almost 50,000 more [than] the previous year's figure.

WORLD POPULATION

The world population passed [the] 2,528,000,000-mark in 1954, acco[rd]ing to statisticians of the Uni[ted] Nations. By mid-1954, the w[orld] had crossed the 2,50,000,000-m[ark] and showed a 36,000,000 incr[ease] from mid-1953 total.

The New York States Health [De]partment reported an "alarming" [...] per cent increase over a twenty-[year] span in deaths among men fr[om] lung cancer.

Richard D. Robinson

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From where I sit ... *by* Joe Marsh

Modern Science Finally Catches Up With Grandpa

I got put in my place the other night. Deserved it, too. My father-in-law said we were due for bad weather. "Birds are flying low," he reported. "That means a storm."

I started to josh with the old gentleman about being superstitious. Then my nephew Jim, on vacation from college, pipes up. "Grandad's right," he says.

"At least, that's what they say at school," Jim goes on. "The heavy air you get before a storm forces insects down low—so high-flying birds have to swoop along the ground if they want to eat."

From where I sit, there's probably sound reasoning back of most old sayings ... back of *anything* people have learned to believe in. Take the idea of a stitch in time saving nine—sparing rods and spoiling children—of drinking hot milk, or a refreshing glass of beer, at bedtime. You may not hold with any of these beliefs *yourself* ... but it's not smart to give them the "bird."

Joe Marsh

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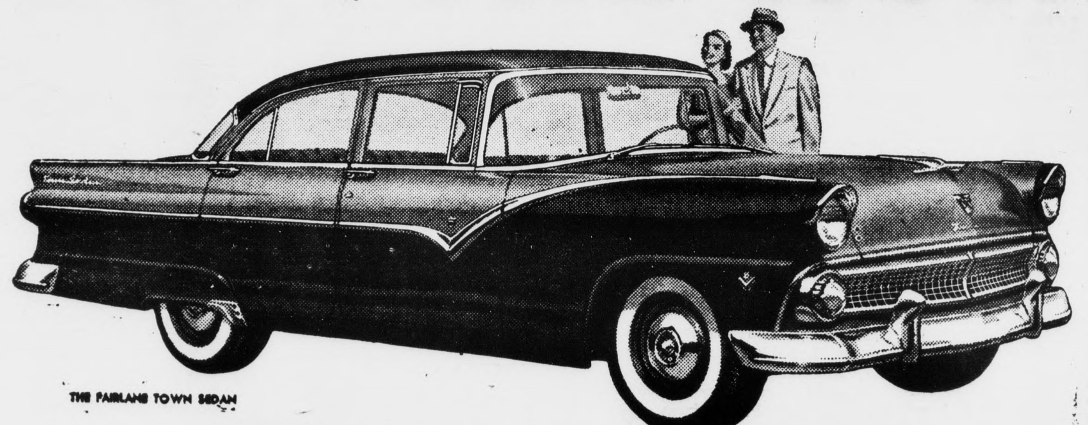

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That's why we say — know your neighbor! He's the man that pays his taxes here! He's interested in community progress and welfare and in the constant improvement of his homegrounds. He's the man with the young ideas for getting ahead!

Take a look at the firms listed on this page. The list is proof of the fine variety of business services to be found in Appomattox, the pay-rolls, banks, the utility, the purchaser of your timber products, etc., as well as the retailer. You can find your needs in Appomattox, and by dealing with these firms you will be contributing to the growth of our home community and its institutions.

Appomattox welcomes TOURISTS to see our historic Peace Shrine — we want to make the stay of tourists pleasant, so they will want to linger over an extra day with us!

What To See At Old Appomattox Court House —

McLean House. In the parlor of the home of Wilmer McLean, now restored, Gens. Robert E. Lee and Ulyssis S. Grant signed the Peace ending the Civil War, April 9, 1865.

National Park Service Museum. Located in the restored Hix Tavern. Contains original flag of truce and many historical relics. Also the famous Guillaume oil painting of Surrender Scene.

Old County Jail. Original brick jail still standing in old court house circle.

Restored Meeks-Plunkett House, Peers House, and other historic buildings.

Site of the "Apple Tree." Where Lee rested awaiting meeting with Grant.

Original Tree under which Lee stood to bid farewell to the Army of Northern Virginia.

Gravesite of the famous minstrel, Joe Sweeney, just beyond Memorial Bridge over Appomattox River.

Confederate Cemetary, site of Lee's headquarters, North Carolina Monument and other historic spots.

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